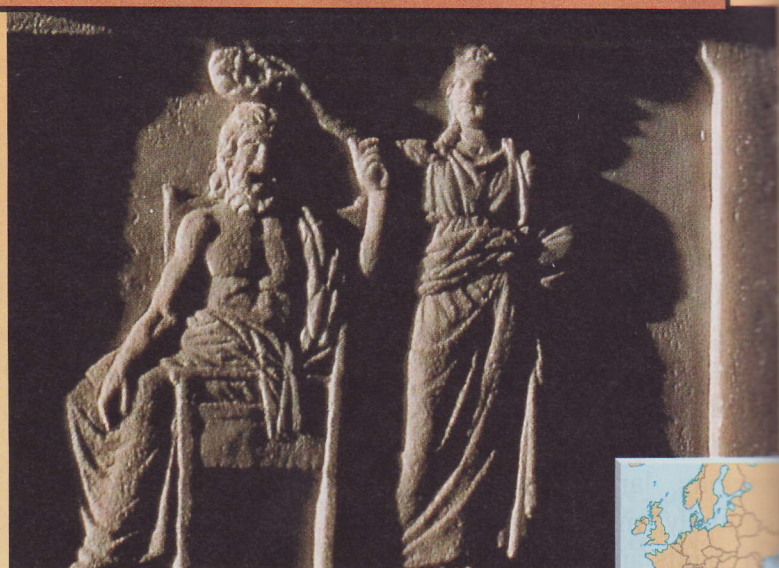


Symbols of Democracy

In this carving (right), the woman stands for democracy. She is crowning a man seated on a throne. He stands for the Athenian people. The carving reminded the people of Athens of their duty to take part in government. Greek citizens served on juries at trials. Bronze plates like this one (below) were used to identify and choose members of juries.



Connect Would you like to have lived under the democracy in Athens? Why or why not?

About 594 B.C., a wise Athenian leader called Solon won the power to reform the laws. Solon was well known for his fairness. His laws reformed both the economy and the government of Athens. One of his first laws canceled all debts and freed citizens who had been enslaved for having debts. Another law allowed any male citizen of Athens aged 18 or older to have a say in debating important laws. These laws and others allowed Athens to become the leading democracy of the ancient world.

However, not everyone living in ancient Athens benefited from democracy. Only about one in five Athenians was a citizen. Some of the people living in Athens were enslaved. These people did not take part in democracy. Nor did women and foreigners. But the men who were citizens of Athens were free and self-governing.

SECTION 1 REVIEW

1. Define (a) peninsula, (b) epic, (c) acropolis, (d) city-state, (e) aristocrat, (f) tyrant, (g) democracy.

2. Identify (a) Homer, (b) Solon, (c) Troy.

3. Describe the three kinds of governments that developed in the Greek city-states after the Dark Ages.

4. What group of Athenians benefited most from democracy? Why?

Critical Thinking

5. Recognizing Cause and Effect How did the mountains in Greece contribute to the rise of city-states?

Activity

6. Writing to Learn

Describe conditions in Greece during the period between the 1100s B.C. and the 700s B.C. Why are these years referred to as Greece's Dark Ages?